

# GERMANY'S DEBT DODGING KEEPS WORLD IN UNREST

By FRANK H. SIMONDS.

At last we have seen disclosed the strategy by which Germany hopes in the next three decades to escape from the consequences of defeat and transform that defeat into a decisive triumph, or at least into the foundation for a later triumph.

From the moment of the armistice to the present hour Germany has been engaged in a stupendous propaganda manoeuvre, an operation on two fronts—that at home and that abroad. The purpose of the manoeuvre at home has been to establish the following points:

I. Germany was not guilty of precipitating, much less planning, the world war. Her statesmen were stupid enough to allow her to seem guilty, but in reality she was an innocent victim. II. Germany was not defeated in the field. Her victorious armies retired to German soil after her statesmen had been tricked by Mr. Wilson's peace proposals and her radicals at home had betrayed their country by the revolution. III. Germany is not bound by the terms signed at Paris and embodied in the Treaty of Versailles because she was innocent, because she was not defeated and because her signature was extorted under threat of military force.

Now, this is the fashion in which the home front has been restored and consolidated since 1918—that is, since the Armistice of Rethondes. The German people have been steadily taught that they were the victims of conditions manufactured by their enemies at the moment when the war broke, that they were the dupes of Wilson in November, 1918, and that Versailles was "a peace of violence," without legal or moral force, as a consequence. Thus a united German public has been created to evade all the terms of the treaty.

## Propaganda Offensive Abroad Based on Different Lines

So much for the manipulation on the home front. As to the enemy front the scheme has been, of course, quite different. At bottom the Germans have based all their operations on two clear conceptions:

I. The economic solidarity of the world is indisputable. A ruined Germany must affect the whole industrial situation of the world, both from the economic and the political sides—from the economic because Germany is a great market for foreign countries, from the political because there is always the peril of Bolshevism.

II. The Anglo-French-American association which won the war is by no means a natural alliance and cannot be expected to endure in peace time. Great Britain and the United States have enormous interest in preserving the German market for their own products and raw materials. France with such interest is bound to seek to reduce German strength and thus to encounter Anglo-American opposition. But the Anglo-American association is more to

## Persistent Propaganda to Split Understanding Between France and Great Britain Fails Miserably—Efforts Continue to Array United States Against Its War Allies—Little Hope of Real Peace for a Generation, Says Simonds

be regarded as permanent than the Anglo-French. It follows, then, that all German foreign policy since the armistice has been directed toward two things: toward establishing the importance for the British and American exporters of the German market and their interest in preserving it; and toward separating France from Great Britain and the United States. On the success of this strategy ultimately rests the hope of German escape from the consequences of her military defeat.

Now looking back over more than two years the whole German operation is spread before the thoughtful observer. Germany has played the commercial game with consummate skill. She has found in foreign economists and bankers, in those of the Keynes school and in other schools of pre-war allies. She has roused the apprehension of British and American producers over the perils of the degeneration of the German market following too onerous exactions and the dangers of paralysis in their own home markets due to an overstimulation of German industries to pay German indemnities.

## Seeks to Tempt the French To Go to Extreme Measures

At the same time she has carried on with respect of France a campaign of exasperation designed to tempt the French to extreme measures without regard to Anglo-American sentiments and thus to separate the Allies. She has steadily refused to meet the disarmament terms so far as they affect land conditions—that is, French interests, while making no protest to complete compliance with the naval conditions, which concern the British. Last summer her policy moved the French to the occupation of Frankfurt without British approval, thus putting a sudden and dangerous strain on Anglo-French relations.

Meantime, I do not think any American is unmindful of the fashion in which German propaganda has been at work in the United States, at work against both Great Britain and France, operating sometimes under the cover of the Irish question, sometimes frankly exploiting Anglo-American rivalries and in a recent instance endeavoring to make capital out of a wholly false issue of "Rhine horrors." The underlying purpose in each case has been to separate France from Britain or to embroil Britons with Americans.

Confident that this campaign had reached a satisfactory point, the Germans went to London the other day prepared to resist the allied terms as framed at Paris. Before the German representatives left Berlin a campaign had been carried on in the domestic press and the Reichstag designed at one

time to give Germans and frighten foreigners; to give the impression of a united, determined Germany ready to risk a new war rather than yield to terms which had been published in advance as the minimum allied requirement.

As it turned out, the London operation proved as complete a failure as the submarine gamble of the war itself. The Germans had reasoned with correctness, that the British public was eager to avoid new military ventures and fresh economic disturbances, but they had underestimated the degree to which the British public still held Germany responsible for the war and ignored the fact that it was therefore unwilling in the last analysis to let Germany put the whole burden of the war upon her victims.

## Did Not Reckon on Britons Holding All Teutons Responsible

A reasonable proposal, an apparent willingness to meet possible requirements, would have placed a heavy strain upon the Anglo-French relations, because the British Ministry could hardly have faced its own public after a refusal, while no French Ministry could have survived substantial concessions. Happily for the world the Germans misjudged their situation. Before their spokesmen, Dr. Simonds, came to London he had toured Germany using language at once defiant and inflammatory. When he came to London he reiterated the substance of his previous speeches on the home front and gave to Lloyd George that opening for response which the agile Welshman seized so skillfully and used to consolidate his own home front. Instead of dividing British public opinion, therefore, the Germans once more, as so often in the war, deprived those most kindly inclined toward them of a single leg to stand on.

German strategy thus led to the prompt redressing of allied lines. Lloyd George, who has favored moderation steadily for many months and drawn down upon himself self-endless criticism in France, saw himself suddenly disclosed as the dupe of Germany. What he had argued, namely, that Germany was in a reasonable mood, that she was striving to meet the new conditions honorably, that the war had changed her temper and her purpose, was demonstrated in a few brief minutes to have been as completely inexact as the arguments of other British statesmen before the war that Germany had no hostile purpose in view. Once more, at a critical moment, the French estimate of the German was demonstrated to have been mathematically and psychologically exact.

In this situation nothing was left for Lloyd George but to return to the French side. All his efforts, all the efforts of English policy for more than a year, fell to the ground. Lloyd George, himself, was in just such a position as Mr. Wilson found himself in, when in February, 1917, the Ger-

mans suddenly declared their unlimited submarine warfare, thus giving the lie to all their previous pledges and all of Mr. Wilson's earlier assertions. In a word German strategy in London led to swift and complete disaster.

For the moment Germany has failed to separate France and Great Britain. In reality she has thrown them more closely together than they have been since the hour of the armistice. But the fact remains that British and French interests are still divergent. The German is wholly sound in calculating that while France, mainly an agricultural State with only a moderate industrial life and a restricted export trade, is little affected by German economic paralysis, the opposite is the case with Great Britain, whose present crisis of unemployment is due in some degree to the closing of the German market and to those other central European markets in which the German played the part of a middleman.

If the British have been momentarily disgusted with the German tactics, if they now support Lloyd George in an effort to compel German submission even at the price of new coercion, the major fact remains the same, that this coercion will prove an expensive luxury for the British, even if no British troops are used. It will prove expensive because it will automatically reduce the value of the German market, and if, as is possible, there be domestic disorders in Germany following the new occupation, the loss to the British will be still greater.

## Coercion Costly to British Even if No Troops Are Sent

Behind this question of trade lies the larger problem of political unrest. The whole of middle Europe, as I have so often pointed out in these articles, is in a state of unstable equilibrium. I do not believe the German propaganda arguments about Germany "going Bolshevik" have much basis in fact, but it is true that these arguments have obtained measurable credence in Great Britain and in the end will exercise a restraining influence.

Moreover, there remains the question of the United States. So far the German has totally failed in obtaining the support which he expected from the British, thanks to his own stupidity. He has miscalculated the British temper quite as completely as he misjudged it in July, 1914. But he has still a fond hope, a hope which has a tremendous value in his own mind, of enlisting American aid. Indeed, the mere fact that Anglo-French relations have momentarily at least become closer gives him new ammunition for American operations.

What the American expects to do is to exploit Anglo-American rivalry for German profit. It is not an exaggeration to say that in the last analysis it is to us that he looks

for that decisive aid which shall enable him to escape from the consequences of defeat and the costs of his crimes. He believes that the United States, with its vast accumulation of raw material awaiting export, with its new problems of business depression, in part due to the present unsettled conditions in Europe, will in no long time seek to reopen the necessary markets, whatever the consequences.

The German game is all here. He may not be able to separate France from Britain; he has just suffered a signal defeat in this quarter, but even this defeat may turn out a victory if the drawing together of Britain and France leads to an American counter offensive. To play us against the British, since we remain the one great, rich nation—this is the German design now and henceforth.

## At First Stage of Campaign As Payments Cover Decades

And it is essential for Americans to perceive that, in any case, we are only at the first stage of the campaign. At the moment there is discussion as to whether Germany shall pay up in thirty years or in forty-two. But in either case one must see that for decades Germany will still be seeking, striving, planning and maneuvering to escape payment. We may accept it as axiomatic that Germany does not mean to pay, that she is determined to escape all payment, and at most only to make such payments as she cannot avoid.

For thirty years, then, at the least, we are to have these ever recurring crises. For thirty years, with all the changing conditions of political and economic life, Germany will remain outside the circle of nations even remotely content with their position. During all this time her policy will be concentrated on the effort to turn nation against nation to stimulate international discord.

Granted that during all this time she remains powerless to risk a new war, conceding—and it is too great a concession manifestly—that her weakness endures, that none of her neighbors, Russia for example, comes to her aid, we have still to count on a resistance which, while passive, is hardly less potent, with all that such resistance must mean for the peace of the world, and above all for the economic order of the world.

One single detail will serve to indicate the extent of world unrest that we seem in for during the next generation. Under the Treaty of Versailles allied troops are to occupy German territory for fifteen years, provided the terms of the treaty are fulfilled, and then to be withdrawn. But Germany has already violated many of the terms beyond all debate or discussion. Henceforth the allied troops may, as a consequence, remain on the Rhine indefinitely. And, given the present and the certain future spirit of Germany, French troops will stay on the

Rhine, unless perchance they advance to the Elbe or the Spree.

But this means a prolongation of some if not all of the conditions of war. It means interruptions to the flow of trade and commerce. It means a never hidden threat of resort to military weapons, if German policy continues to invite military intervention by deliberate and calculated evasion of the terms of the treaty of peace.

What is the use of calculating upon a future, even reasonably remote, in which real order and business stability will arrive, if one nation deliberately adopts a policy which insures ever recurring crises and periodical resort to military force?

What can be the hope of real return of peace as long as Germany gambles on the world desire for peace as strong enough to enable her now to escape from the obligations incurred by her conduct of the war and to-morrow, having escaped, having shifted the burden of paying for the war from the backs of her own people to those of her neighbors, to seek to abolish the political and territorial consequences by one more war, better planned this time?

And if we see what German policy is and what it is to be for the future through the events at London, is it not necessary to perceive also what allied policy—above all, what French policy—will be?

Is it not manifest that, granted that German effort to divide France from Britain fails, as it has so far failed and seems likely to continue to fail; conceded that the similar effort to embroil the United States fails, as it will come when it will seem to the whole world, outside of Germany, no longer while to restrain the French, provided such restraint could be exerted?

## Always the Fatal Blind Spot That Kills German Designs

I do not believe that Germany will be more successful in the future than in the recent past in dividing her enemies and thus achieving her purpose. In the last analysis there is a blind spot in the German mind which always insures disaster to German designs. Over and over again during the war, above all, in the critical days when the war was just becoming inescapable, that German blind spot was disclosed. The German capacity for reuniting divided allies by some stroke of supreme folly has patently not been reduced by the experiences of the war itself. And in the end it seems likely that a new German blunder will have the old familiar consequences.

There never was a better chance for Germany, by skill, by a little real comprehension of the exact situation in the world, to compel her conquerors to modify their terms, to put the French in a position of having either to diminish their demands, based upon justice as they are, or lose British and perhaps American support.

There never was a finer chance to exploit the war weariness of the world and the general desire to get back to business and have done with all that the war had meant.

But, given all these initial advantages, the German has again thrown them away because he could not perceive realities.

Copyright, 1921, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

# Interesting Bits of City Life Gleaned From Many Angles, Often Mirth Provoking

By FRANK VREELAND.

BACK in the prehistoric days of Camp Upton we knew a wily company clerk who served three months in the camp detention pen for extorting money from the soldiers for passes whenever they wanted to stagger the city with a show of force. By a natural law of development he has just become a taxicab driver.

IRRESPONSIBLE as the taxi pirates are to those of finer clay, occasionally some one, incredible as it may seem, has an influence for good with them. One such person is a bootblack who keeps a stand outside the City Hall station of the B. R. T. subway, alongside the space where these gasoline vultures wait to swoop down upon their prey. In the intervals between victims they graft free shins from this bootblack, and though his habitual customers don't know it the fact that they patronize his open air emporium constitutes a powerful protection for them. For whenever the bootblack has heard the taxi drivers discussing possible means of flying a patron taxicidentally he has protested, "Don't rob that guy—he's a customer of mine." And every time the customer who rode has escaped by the skin of his wallet.

Rarer and rarer intervals an old fashioned hansom cab or four wheeler lumbers along Broadway out of the limbo of the forgotten, and passersby turn to stare with the curiosity they used to accord the automobile. No one delights more than Al Johnson to shock the town with such a conveyance. His particular pleasure is to drive up to a theatre in an old hack pulled by an ancient horse and driven by a dorky whose voice could carry above any automobile horn, besides having a choicer variety of syllables. Then, to add to the thrill, Johnson wears a yellow overcoat.

MAYBE it had nothing to do with the current carnival of crime—maybe an affidavit to that effect could be made at headquarters—but a few days ago a taxi chauffeur was overheard at a stand explaining to some of his fellow immortals how he fixed the small mirror on his windshield so that it acted as a periscope on his passengers in the body of the car in back. These mirrors appear innocuous enough, and are generally mistaken by taxi users as a means to avoid getting the grand slam from a car approaching from the rear. But it appears that they are now being used by the progressive set among the taxi drivers—who sometimes have more than a bowing acquaintance with crooks—as a method of keeping the passenger list under surveillance until the time has arrived for administering the soothing syrup with a blackjack. "An' y'know," this driver explained indignantly, "a couple guys got in 't' old bus the other night, an' when they seen the mirror pointing at them they actually walked out on me at the next block. Can yer beat it?"

HAVE you ever noticed how the passengers on Mayor Hylan's cross-town buses—those same buses that the Mayor wants to bequeath as his legacy to the city—take such a keen personal interest in the driver's work? As they career over the streets the inmates of each bus observe the conduct of the chauffeur

and the misconduct of the vehicle with the close, individual attention of those who have something of their own at stake. An air of tenseness overhangs the interior, almost visible in the internal atmosphere—the car becomes on each journey the Juggernaut of destiny.

Every one, in fact, seems intensely preoccupied with its course but the driver. He generally drives with gusto, not to say abandon. Yet he does not take his work too seriously. That would be making his avocation mere work. More often than not he appears to have gained his experience—and his dilettante spirit—driving an army truck in the war.

Meanwhile the passengers are craning their necks forward, viewing the road with the utmost fascination and possibly picking out the softest spot to land when the crash comes. Careful observation shows that almost every passenger in one of these conveyances is looking straight ahead with a fearful, hypnotized stare. The heads are all turned in the one direction like automotons. One rather expects to see an habitual patron of the buses who sits on the same side of the car every day develop a permanent crick in the neck. The denizens of Staten Island are only just straightening out their now.

WE hope he meets with a young friend whose particular avocation when at leisure is to step into a taxicab and then, when the driver is starting off optimistically, blithely twostep out on the other side.

COMMERCIAL rivalry is so keen in this city that it extends even to the artistic sphere of hand organs. The other day in Seventh avenue near Fortieth street a hurdy-gurdy drew up to the sidewalk and started blasting out a tune. Another hurdy-gurdy that appeared to have been dogging its spasm immediately drew up alongside it and began rending the air in competition. It happened at this time that the barkers and pullers-in for the various cheap clothing stores lining the ave-

nue in the vicinity—and reviving memories of dear old Hester street—were also particularly vocal in chanting the saga of their handsome corduroy vests. And the whole medley was unconsciously in strident opposition to the Metropolitan opera. No wonder opera singers can get corns on their vocal cords. It would need the donkey from "Pagliacci" to drown out the sidewalk opera. To any sensitive ghost hovering in the neighborhood it must have sounded like a Strauss symphony.

## The Taxi Chauffeur.

Evolution wrought to make you. Laboring a billion years. So perhaps we ought to take you. Though we feel fate stripped some gears.

Think, to build a taxi driver. Destiny tried men in geodes: To perfect a traffic diver. His forebears dodged dinosaurs.

Tipped flower of the ages. Providence but speaks in you; As you fume your fretting rages. At no tips evolving too.

True survival of the fittest. You're the fruit of many pains; For the breeds, from big to littlest. Kept on top by raising Cains.

Long ago the pterodactyl. Winged to prey that you might swoop; Your ancestral snake grew tractile. That you might ensnare some goop.

So, whenever your tones grow shriller As a traffic cop you gull. It's because Grandpa Gorilla. Also swore at some big bull.

SINCE a murder was committed—one which gave rise to extraordinary publicity—in a room at an uptown hotel, the room clerk has noticed that many incoming guests appear to be particularly interested in which suite they are assigned. This is especially true of travelling men, and

the clerk has noticed a number of them, on being given the number of their room, would take out a little notebook, peer at an entry anxiously and then accept the reservation with apparent relief.

"Yet, in spite of these precautions," said the clerk, "many of them cheerfully take that room without knowing it. Fear of the room was proving such a hoodoo that we dropped the number from the list—and then had to renumber all the rooms on that floor."

IT'S hard to define just what is the wizardry about a soda fountain which makes the patrons and the syrup jugglers in their conversational flings strive for the wit of an elegant salon. This seems to be an incurable development of civilization. Here's a verbatim sample of the wit: Elevator runner (imbibing soda with a devil may care air)—Where's all the handsome guys they used to have waitin' on this count'?

Attendant—They're only two of us left. Elevator Runner—That's tough on us.

Attendant (to elevator runner's friend)—He's in a rising business, that guy is. Friend—Yeh, but he don't get nowhere. Attendant—Sees a lot of ups and downs. Elevator Runner—That's the way to have 'em. (This is considered good enough for an exit line.)

HOTEL guests should cherish the bell-hops with a free hand, not only for the time honored reason that they possess plenary powers over the ice water and the smuggled prescription neatly done up in a flask, but from the newer consideration that behind the buttons of one of the species may lurk a bustling theatrical manager.

It has just come to light that the business manager and press agent for a production which recently debouched on Broadway is a lobby minion during the day at the Hotel Commodore. During the evening this ambitious young man doubles in brass at the theatre, and it appears to be a question

which is the more profitable to him, purveying amusement to a weary public or seeing that it is punctually awakened after sleeping off the effects of last night's show.

So if any hotel patron has a particular play recommended to him by a cherub faced lad in a uniform—recommended casually, but still in good round terms—he can trust to it that the lad knows what he's talking about, for he takes part in running the show.

LOUIS MANN, known as an actor wherever the name of Louis Mann has penetrated, was inspecting with unfeigned admiration a new automobile which happened to be his.

"Listen," he said, pointing at the back seat and getting a little attention from his chauffeur. "See that corner there? I want you always to keep that clean."

"Why, boss?" queried the chauffeur. "That where the 'hootch' will be kept?"

"That's where I shall sit," said Louis Mann, the actor.

YOU'RE fired," said an employer the other day to a colored porter who had made a glaring error in administration.

"Why, boss," said the porter. "You can't fire me. I got too much work to do around here."

fellows. But one also begins to suspect the only place a man is safe is in his grave.

## An Attack of Verse.

"Ware diseases! Great pandemics! All the world has epidemics! So you'd think if you'd but credit floods of medical polemics.

"Take care or you'll have the small-pox— Dodge the hicoughs—shun all tall shoos— Don't blame us if your poor jaw locks!"

Germis are working overtime like song composers for J. Remick's.

All around the coffins rattle while the swarms of microbes battle— Thus the cheerful New Year's greeting of the savants' learned prattle.

Breathe cold air—you'll get pneumonia— Breathe hot air—your friends disown yer—

Might be best to breathe ammonia, Then you'd be as free from illness as refrigerated cattle.

Staying glum brings influenza; if you sing a glad cadenza.

And you strain your throat you'll get the typhus straight from Russian Penza.

Don't pet mice—they're quite bubonic!

Outbreaks really are so chronic For the Jim-jams take a tonic!

It's a wonder I'm alive to have an outbreak like this stanza.

## Women Impatient With Own Foibles

IT is believed by many people that women offenders in the courts are going to be none too pleased to have women jurors, no matter how much publicity the newspapers give to cases of individual women on trial who ask for a jury of their peers.

Men understand, says a London newspaper writer, the little weaknesses and foibles of woman and forgive them and make allowances where women are merely exasperated and impatient with a display of feminine irregularity of which they themselves undoubtedly are quite capable. A case came up not long ago before the London Education Committee. A woman caretaker in one of the schools resigned to enter a convent. In less than a month she had asked for reinstatement.

"It's absurd," declared a woman member of the board. "Of course we won't take her back! She had plenty of time to make up her mind about her career, and if she is not certain of it yet obviously she has not got enough stability for her post here!"

But the men on the board couldn't see reasonableness in such an argument about a woman. "Why deny her her woman's privilege of changing her mind more than once?" the men asked. "Of course we'll reinstate her!"

"Nonsense! And if she changes her mind again and decides to enter the convent after all, and then changes her mind a third time about doing it and asks for a second reinstatement with the schools, I suppose you will take her back?"

"I suppose we will!" sighed the men. They were in the majority, and the woman was forgiven.

# How Many of These Questions Could You Answer?

PUPILS in one of the famous preparatory schools in New Jersey were asked the questions printed herewith and given ample time to answer them. One boy had 85 per cent. correctly answered and the average was 56 per cent. What percentage could you answer correctly? Trying, will furnish an interesting evening.

## Here are the questions:

What animal or flower is associated with each of the following countries: France, England, Scotland, Russia, Ireland?

To what States in our country are the following nicknames given: Nutmeg State, Lone Star State, Pine Tree State, Hoosier State, Buckeye State, Granite State, Empire State, Cotton State, Wolverine State, Cracker State?

What are: The highest mountain in the world, the longest river, the greatest lake, the largest island, the highest structure? Name the Vice-President of the United States, Secretary of State, American Ambassador to Great Britain, Secretary of the Navy, Prime Minister of England.

Who was the national hero of Switzerland, Scotland, Holland, Celtic Britain, Italy, Ireland?

Locate by country: Vancouver, the Apennines, Stockholm, Vera Cruz, Florence.

In what field or office have the following become prominent? Give nationality; also state whether contemporary or historical: Leonardo da Vinci, Alfred Noyes, Petain, D'Annunzio, Martin Luther, Tolstoy, Mme. Homer, Rembrandt, Rabindranath Tagore, Orville Wright?

Who was The Maid of Orleans, the Little Corporal, the Iron Chancellor, Le Grand Marquis, the Scourge of God?

What are the two great outstanding names in American sport of 1920?

Who is the champion chess player of the world?

Who is the greatest all-around athlete America has produced?

What is the world's record for the 100-yard dash?

What is a "ship of the desert"? A chronometer?

What is a semaphore? A carburetor?

Define hexameter, kilometer, cyclometer. Express 32 Fahrenheit in the Centigrade scale.

If a clock were gaining, would you lengthen or shorten its pendulum?

What historical or literary associations are connected with the following? Tell what nations were involved. Waterloo, the Treaty of Ghent, Trafalgar, The Statue of Liberty, Islam, the Fourth of July, Gettysburg, Domesday Book, Thermopylae, The Craigie House.

Explain O. K.; L. C.; B. C.; M. D.

How many States are there in the United States?

What curse rested upon King Midas?

Who were Jove? Diana?

Who slew Sisera?

What is the "Mona Lisa"?

Who now is the judge of last appeal in major league baseball?

Of what play is Rosalind a heroine? Titania?

Who decorated the Sistine Chapel in Rome?

What was the original language of the New Testament?

What do you mean by the word carats in the expression "ten carats gold"?

What is the longest memorial in the United States erected to a great American? The highest? The most famous in New York city?

Name:

The general who led the Carthaginians over the Alps.

The man who first circumnavigated the globe.

The city that was saved by geese.

The impressive ceremonies that took place on Armistice Day in England and France.

The cities that have been the capital of our country.

Identify by naming author or work:

"England expects every man to do his duty."

"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives me to see the right."

"Veni, vidi, vici."

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

"But oh for the touch of a vanished hand And the sound of a voice that is still."